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Gov. Perdue Launches North Carolina iTunes U Tool Education Portal for Students, Teachers and Parents

RALEIGH – Today, teachers, students, and parents have a new but familiar tool to help them download the latest multimedia education resources from North Carolina, including presentations, professional development videos, curriculum materials and more, for free.

“The iTunes U site is a smart, cost-efficient solution for North Carolina’s students, teachers and administrators to share and store educational content,” said Gov. Bev Perdue. “Expanding content outside the walls of the classroom will help our students to graduate ready career or college ready.”

The Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the Governor’s Office have worked with other organizations in the state to create the collection of education-related audio and video files that are now available on the new “North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Partners” section of iTunes U.

iTunes U is a dedicated area within the iTunes Store (www.itunes.com) which offers free educational content available for download in the same way individuals access music and videos on the iTunes Store. NCDPI Instructional Technology Chief Neill Kimrey presented the new site to members of the State Board of Education at its meeting in Raleigh today.

The NCDPI has posted audio and video files related to professional development, state curriculum and news on iTunes U and will continue to post new content, including more items related to North Carolina’s new *Standard Course of Study*, which will be rolled out in 2012-13. Some of the categories of content featured on the site include Educational Leadership, Learning Resources, Curriculum and Teaching and Learning Resources. All content on iTunes U can be experienced on a PC or Mac, iPod, iPhone or iPad. Users also can subscribe to receive alerts when new material is added under a specific category.

“This initiative utilizes technology many of us are already familiar with to share best practices in teaching and learning from North Carolina and across the nation,” said State Superintendent June Atkinson. “This type of collaboration is a key part of our efforts to better prepare young people for the future.”

The NC Museum of History and LEARN NC have also contributed curriculum-related content to the site including videos focused on North Carolina history and linguistics, and audio files featuring lessons about